

BOROUGH OF HIGHAM FERRERS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

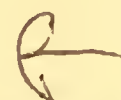
Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1970



F. R. N. LYNCH, M.B., B.ch., B.A.O , D.P.H.



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Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Mayor:

COUNCILLOR MRS. L. E. WILLIAMS

Members of the Highways and Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR H. O. BINDER (Chairman)

Aldermen:

R. W. KILSBY AND T. C. OBERMAN

Councillors:

R. J. GELL

MRS. G. M. MURDIN

E. A. JENNINGS

H. POTTER

L. SIMPSON

Madam Mayor, COUNCILLOR MRS. L. E. WILLIAMS
was an ex-officio member

Town Clerk:

G. H. CRAPPER

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

Medical Officer of Health:

F. R. N. LYNCH, M.B., B.ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(*Medical Officer of Health Northamptonshire Health Division No. 2*)

Secretary:

MISS M. W. LANGLEY

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

W. H. PLUMMER, M.P.H.I.A., A.M.Inst.H.E.



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Telephone: Kettering 2473

Area Health Office,
75 London Road,
Kettering.
June, 1971.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the
Borough of Higham Ferrers.**

MADAM MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Environmental Health of the Borough of Higham Ferrers for the year 1970. It has been compiled in accordance with instructions circulated by the Department of Health and Social Security.

I took up the appointment of Medical Officer of Health to the Borough in the Summer, succeeding Dr. Joan M. St. V. Dawkins who now acts for the County Council's Health Division No. 1.

Apart from a spectacular outbreak of Staphylococcal Food Poisoning amongst school children in Rushden on October 1st, there was little serious Infectious Disease. This outbreak is described on page 24 in this Report because children from Higham Ferrers who attend the Rushden Boys' Secondary School were affected by the outbreak.

The statistics relating to the Borough, supplied by the Registrar General, are given on page 6 and are satisfactory. It will be noticed that there has been an increase of 280 in the population which is considerable for a total figure of 4,760. Over and above the natural increase in population, it is estimated that there has been an additional increase of over 200 persons. Seventy-seven houses were erected by private development.

In April the Northamptonshire Rat Control Committee decided to set up five District Committees and the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food recommended that the Borough of Higham Ferrers be included in Committee No. 5 which also comprises the Urban Districts of Irthlingborough, Oundle, Raunds and Rushden and the Rural District of Oundle and Thrapston.

My thanks are due Madam Mayor and Members of the Council for your support during the year and to Mr. Plummer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, and Miss Langley, my Secretary, for their help in the preparation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. R. N. LYNCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Medical Officer of Health desires to express his thanks to the following for supplying material used in the compilation of this Report:

Dr. W. J. McQuillan,
Northamptonshire County Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. J. V. L. Farquhar,
Medical Officer of Health, Kettering M.B.

Town Clerk.

Engineer & Surveyor to the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Manager, Department of Employment.

Honorary Secretary, Higham Ferrers Old People's Welfare Committee.

Honorary Secretary, Higham Ferrers After-Care Committee.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Comparative Statistics for the Five Year Period 1966 to 1970

					1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Area of the Borough (acres) ...	...	...	...	...	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945
Population									
(Registrar General's Estimate) ...	...	...	...	...	4,350	4,380	4,390	4,480	4,760
Number of Live Births ...	...	...	...	...	82	69	76	69	72
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	78	65	72	66	67
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	4	4	4	3	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	...	18.9	15.8	17.3	15.4	15.1
Number of Stillbirths ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	2	—
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	—
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births					—	—	13.0	28.0	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	0.2	0.4	—
Number of Deaths ...	...	...	...	...	46	41	46	42	37
Death rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	...	10.6	9.4	10.5	9.4	7.8
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Infant Deaths ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	—
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000									
Live Births ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	13.2	14.0	—
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000									
Live Births ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total Live and Stillbirths) ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	13.2	28.0	—
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis including late effects ...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis					1	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms ...	...	...	...	...	10	4	10	7	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Natural increase in population, i.e., increase of Births over Deaths ...	...	...	...	...	36	28	30	27	35

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,945
Census Population 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,681
1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,753
Population (Registrar General's Mid-year Estimate 1970)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,760
Number of inhabited houses 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,256
1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,299
1970	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,615
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£181,091
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£722

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows:

The manufacture of footwear and allied trades, light engineering, textile bonding and pet food manufacture.

The social conditions of the district are satisfactory and at the end of the year the percentage of unemployment in the area was 1.4. The National Rate was 3 per cent.

The density of population is 2.4 persons per acre and the Housing Factor is 2.9.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1970

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	39	28	67
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Totals</i>	...	...	...	...	...	41	31	72
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population								15.1
Adjusted Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.3)								19.6
Stillbirths								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Totals</i>	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)						...		—
Deaths								
Number registered all causes						24	13	37
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population								7.8
Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor 1.13)								8.8
Deaths from Maternal causes						...	...	—
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths								—
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year)						...	...	—
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						...		—
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births						...	...	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						...	...	—
Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks)						...	...	—
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						...		—
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths (stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week combined)						...	...	—

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE, 1970

List No.	Cause of Death	Sex	All Ages	4 weeks		Age in years									
				Under 4 weeks	under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 plus	
B19 (3)	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B19 (4)	Malignant neoplasm, intestine	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B19 (6)	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19 (6)	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19 (6)	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19 (11)	Other malignant neoplasms...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19 (11)	Other malignant neoplasms...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B19 (11)	Other malignant neoplasms...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (5)	Other diseases of nervous system	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (5)	Other diseases of nervous system	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B27	Hypertensive disease ...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B27	Hypertensive disease ...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (6)	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B46 (6)	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B46 (6)	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B32	Pneumonia ...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B32	Pneumonia ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B32	Pneumonia ...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and emphysema ...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and emphysema ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (8)	Other diseases of digestive system	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (8)	Other diseases of digestive system	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE48	All other accidents ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE48	All other accidents ...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE48	All other accidents ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	ALL CAUSES	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	ALL CAUSES	...	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
TOTAL	ALL CAUSES	...	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

1. Population—The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population i.e. 30th June, 1970, is 4,760. The corresponding figure for 1969 was 4,480 giving an increase in population of 280 in the twelve months.

2. Births—There were 72 live births in 1970, which is an increase of 3 in the number registered for the previous year. This gives a Crude Birth Rate of 15.1 per 1,000 population. The corresponding figure for 1969 was 15.4.

It will be apparent that the Birth Rate and Death Rate in any place is influenced by the age and sex distribution of the population so that in order that more exact comparisons can be made between one area and another the actual Rate is multiplied by a number called the Comparability Factor, the result being known as the Adjusted, or Corrected Rate. These Comparability Factors are supplied by the Registrar General and are based on the age and sex distribution as shown by the Census. For Higham Ferrers the Birth Rate Comparability Factor is 1.3 and the Corrected Birth Rate standardised on the basis of age and sex composition therefore gives an Adjusted Rate of 19.6. The Adjusted Rate of 19.6 compares with 20.0 for 1969 and the Provisional Crude Rate for England and Wales of 16.0

3. Deaths—There were 37 deaths from all causes in 1970. The figure for last year was 42 and the corresponding Crude Death Rates are 7.8 and 9.4. In the same way as described in the case of **2. Births**, above, the Death Rate is standardised by the use of a further Comparability Factor. Its value for Higham Ferrers is 1.13 and the Adjusted Death Rate corrected by means of this calculation is found to be 8.8. The provisional Crude Rate for England and Wales as a whole is reckoned by the Registrar General to be 11.7.

4. Disposal of the Dead—of the 37 deaths, 27 bodies were disposed of by cremation at Kettering Crematorium, giving a percentage of 73.

5. Infant Mortality—There were no Infant deaths in 1970. There was one in 1969 and the Infant Mortality Rate for 1969 was 14.0. The provisional rate for England and Wales as a whole is 18.0.

6. Stillbirths—There were no Stillbirths registered in 1970, there were two in 1969 and the Stillbirth Rate was 28.0 per 1,000 total births. The current rate for England and Wales is 13.0.

7. Maternal Mortality—There were no deaths classed to pregnancy and childbirth in 1970

VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1970 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
		No.	Rate	Under No.	One Year Rate	All Ages No.	All Ages Rate
1895	2,000	64	32.0	3	47.0	30	15.0
1900	2,540	69	27.1	9	130.0	31	12.2
1905	2,794	48	17.2	5	104.1	28	9.6
1910	2,920	42	14.3	1	23.8	24	8.2
1915	2,849	51	18.3	4	78.4	37	12.9
1920	2,977	69	23.1	9	130.4	35	11.7
1925	2,998	35	11.6	3	85.7	17	5.6
1930	3,054	41	13.4	2	48.7	31	10. 1
1935	2,987	31	10.4	0	0.0	37	12.4
1940	3,172	40	12.6	0	0.0	39	12.3
1941	3,690	45	12.5	1	22.2	42	11.6
1942	3,528	55	15.5	2	36.3	28	7.9
1943	3,366	52	15.4	1	19.2	39	11.3
1944	3,298	60	18.2	1	16.7	36	10.9
1945	3,268	71	21.7	2	28.2	46	14.1
1946	3,406	62	18.2	1	16.12	45	13.21
1947	3,528	80	22.67	3	37.50	48	13.60
1948	3,599	67	18.61	0	0.0	34	9.44
1949	3,644	60	16.46	2	33.33	40	10.97
1950	3,645	63	17.28	1	15.87	51	13.99
1951	3,661	51	13.93	0	0.0	40	10.92
1952	3,661	65	17.75	1	15.38	32	8.74
1953	3,648	58	15.89	3	51.72	39	10.69
1954	3,670	55	14.98	1	18.18	27	7.35
1955	3,660	51	13.93	2	39.21	46	12.56
1956	3,650	61	16.71	0	0.0	38	10.41
1957	3,690	44	11.92	1	22.72	35	9.48
1958	3,700	51	13.78	1	19.60	49	13.24
1959	3,700	51	13.78	1	19.60	27	7.29
1960	3,710	57	15.36	1	17.54	46	12.39
1961	3,770	58	15.38	0	0.0	30	7.95
1962	3,830	48	12.53	0	0.0	40	10.44
1963	3,850	47	12.20	1	21.27	36	9.35
1964	3,900	59	15.13	0	0.0	38	9.74
1965	4,210	73	17.34	3	41.10	42	9.98
1966	4,350	82	18.85	0	0.0	46	10.57
1967	4,380	69	15.8	0	0.0	41	9.4
1968	4,390	76	17.3	1	13.2	46	10.5
1969	4,480	69	15.4	1	14.0	42	9.4
1970	4,760	72	15.1	0	0.0	37	7.8

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

In subsequent sections, full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Borough, for which services the Council is directly responsible.

The present section is related to those health services which concern more the health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. The Health Committee of the Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for the administration of many of these services under Part III of the 1946 National Health Service Act.

Liaison between County Council services and District Council services is facilitated by the fact that your Medical Officer of Health is also a School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Laboratory Facilities—The Public Health Laboratory, Northampton is available for the examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases.

Ambulance Service—This is one of the services for which the County Council is responsible and the area is adequately covered.

Domiciliary Services—These include District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors, who are all highly trained, qualified nurses on the staff of the County Medical Officer. The Home Help Service, also provided by the County Council, is proving more and more valuable in relieving people of domestic worries during periods of illness or confinement, and in helping old folk to remain in their own homes, so that they can retain their treasured independence.

Child Welfare Centres—The County Council provides these services as follows:

Health Centre, Rectory Road, Rushden—Every Monday and Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Immunisation and Vaccination—Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and vaccination against

Smallpox are free services, available either from the family doctor or at the County Child Welfare Clinics. Certain age groups of children can also be given B.C.G. vaccination to protect against Tuberculosis. This is done through the School Health Service.

A vaccine for the protection of infants against Measles is now available and, in accordance with the policy of the County Health Department, a campaign for the control of and, it is hoped, ultimate eradication of this disease, was commenced in the Autumn of 1968.

Hospital Accommodation and Out-patient Facilities—

- General Hospitals—Northampton and Kettering.
- Maternity—Maternity Block, Park Hospital, Wellingborough.
- Chronic Sick, the aged and persons in need of care and attention—
Park Hospital, Wellingborough.
- Gynaecological—Wellingborough Hospital.
- Acute medical and skin cases, and children—Highfield Hospital,
Wellingborough.
- Tuberculosis—Rushden Hospital.
- Orthopaedics—Manfield Hospital, Northampton.
- Infectious Diseases—Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton.

The Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden. The following clinics are held at this hospital:

Gynaecological/	...	Monday mornings
Obstetrical	...	(except last Monday in month)
		Alternate Tuesday mornings
		2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday afternoons
General Medicine	...	2nd and 4th Monday afternoons
		Alternate Tuesday mornings
		2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons
		1st, 3rd and 5th Friday mornings
Physical Medicine		Monday afternoons
Dietician	...	1st Tuesday mornings
General Surgery	...	1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons
		2nd and 4th Friday mornings
E.N.T.	...	2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings
		1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons
Chest Diagnosis	...	Every Wednesday afternoon
Ophthalmology	...	Thursday mornings and afternoons
Physiotherapy	...	Monday afternoons
		Alternate Friday afternoons

Psychiatric	...	Thursday afternoons
Dermatology	...	Thursday mornings
Paediatrics	...	Wednesday mornings
Diabetic	...	1st Monday afternoon
Orthopaedic	...	1st and 3rd Friday afternoons

Venereal Disease—

Out-patient Department, Kettering General Hospital.

Tuesday of each week	Female	4.30-5.30 p.m.
	Male	5.30-6.30 p.m.

Northampton General Hospital:

Male	Wednesday	2-3 p.m.
	Friday	5-6.30 p.m.
Female	Monday	5.15-6.30 p.m.
	Friday	2.15-3.30 p.m.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951, Section 47—These Acts give Local Authorities powers to enable them to deal expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people.

No formal action was taken under this Section of these Acts in 1970.

Higham Ferrers Old People's Welfare Committee—This Committee has completed another successful year of work on behalf of the old people of the Borough.

*Meals on Wheels Service—*During 1970 1,770 meals were delivered, as against 1,718 in 1969. Since the inauguration of the Service in September 1960 a total of 14,565 meals have been delivered. Madam Mayor and her husband delivered a special meal on Christmas Eve which was much appreciated by the elderly people involved. Boys from the Rushden Secondary School had sent a cheque for £7 towards the cost of this meal.

*Darby and Joan Club—*There was an average weekly attendance of 77 and during the year 15 new members joined the club making a total of 31 men and 97 women.

*Chiropody Service—*During 1970, 252 clinics were held and 168 domiciliary visits were made. There is a waiting list of 32 people. Efforts to obtain the services of another chiropodist with a view to starting another clinic, have been unsuccessful.

Visitations—The Ladies' Committee have made many visits to those living alone or who are in ill-health giving assistance and advice where required. Monthly visits have also been made to those in hospital or homes when a small monetary gift has been given.

Holidays and Outings—In May 18 old people visited Clacton with the County Holiday Scheme and later on in May 107 visited Paignton. The Autumn holiday was spent in Llandudno when 90 people joined the party. A number of day trips have also been organised.

Many efforts were arranged to raise funds for this worthy cause.

Higham Ferrers After-Care Committee—Assistance for chest and heart patients and their families has been the main objective of the Committee since its formation. In the early days, assistance was confined to Tubercular patients but with the marked decrease in Tuberculosis the Committee now assist patients suffering from all diseases of the chest and heart.

While patients are under the care of the Committee, either at home or in hospital, monthly visits are made. As a result of these visits, many gifts of cash and kind have been given. At Christmas a cash grant of £2 was given to each patient.

Letters from patients show that while they are very grateful for the financial aid given by the Committee they sincerely appreciate the visits made to them by the members.

The Committee has generously “adopted” a patient from a neighbouring town who is in Rushden Hospital and who does not enjoy the services of a Care Committee.

The principal fund raising effort was the Christmas Seal Sales Appeal.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply—The Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board is responsible for the water supply to the Borough. The Board provides a treated water supply and the sources of supply are as follows.

Above Ground Source—*Sywell Reservoir*, which has a capacity of 236,000,000 gallons, and is situated in the Wellingborough Rural District. The reservoir is dependent upon springs and surface rainwater from the surrounding catchment area, also two small brooks flow into the reservoir. The size of the catchment area is approximately 2,000 acres. Treatment of water at these works consists of slow sand filtration, rapid gravity filtration, followed by chlorination.

Under Ground Source of Supply—(a) *Hardwater Crossing, Wollaston*. The source of supply here is from wells sunk in the Nene river gravels. The water from this source is rather hard. Treatment of water consists of mechanical filtration, followed by chlorination.

(b) *Ditchford*. Water is extracted from the gravels by porous concrete collector ducts which are laid in the alluvial gravels adjacent to Ditchford lake. Treatment of water consists of rapid gravity filtration, partial softening, aeration, and finally, chlorination.

(c) Further sources of supply belonging to the Board are a gravel well at Earls Barton and springs at Grendon.

Quality of Water—The chemical analyses of water taken at Ditchford, Sywell and Wollaston Pumping Stations gave the following results:

		<i>Final Water</i> <i>Wollaston</i> <i>Works</i>	<i>Final Water</i> <i>Ditchford</i> <i>Works</i>	<i>Final Water</i> <i>Sywell</i> <i>Works</i>
Physical Characters	...	Good	Good	Good
Reaction	... ..	pH7.0	7.1	7.2

Chemical Analysis

<i>Samples contained</i>	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>		
	<i>Sywell</i> <i>(treated)</i>	<i>Ditchford</i> <i>(treated)</i>	<i>Wollaston</i> <i>(treated)</i>
Chloride	4.8	7.0	3.8
Ammonia (Free and Saline)	0.0098	nil	0.0042
Ammonia (Albuminoid) ...	0.0136	0.0272	0.0244
Nitrate	0.50	0.10	0.20
Nitrite	absent	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent
Calcium	12.6	12.4	8.4
Magnesium	1.21	1.21	1.05
Alkalinity	23.0	17.5	12.5
Total Hardness	31.9	27.8	18.3
Permanent hardness ...	15.7	17.2	12.3
Temporary hardness ...	16.2	10.6	6.0
Microscopic examination of deposit	none	none	none
Bacteriological examination	c.o. absent	c.o. absent	c.o. absent

Fluoride Content of the Water Supply—

Sywell Reservoir	0.24 parts per million
Wollaston, Hardwater Crossing ...	0.2 parts per million
Ditchford	0.18 parts per million

Water Samples—516 samples were taken in the area of the Board during the year. Samples of treated water all gave satisfactory results.

Water Consumption—The following are combined figures for Rushden and Higham Ferrers.

	<i>gallons</i>
Average daily consumption	923,694
Domestic Use:	
Average per day	771,181
Trade Use:	
Average per day	152,513
Consumption/Head/Day	
Domestic	33.5
Trade	6.6

Piped Water Supply—New services: Private 105. The rainfall over the past 14 years was as follows:

		1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Rushden	...	23.72	26.85	18.4	31.64	18.90	19.27	21.45	18.22
Sywell	...	24.51	30.54	20.5	33.74	20.80	18.91	22.23	16.35
		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970		
		25.89	28.89	20.22	30.43	23.07	22.89		
		28.98	28.96	25.23	28.29	22.13	25.95		

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage—These are modern works constructed in 1954. Crude sewage as it arrives at the works first flows into settlement tanks where it is allowed to stand. Heavy matter falls to the bottom and it is drained off as sludge. This runs to a series of sludge beds to dry off. The supermatent sewage runs from the settlement tanks to the primary filter beds, percolates through the clinker and is acted upon by the anaerobic bacteria. The effluent is collected from these beds into a humus tank and led finally from this to the secondary filter beds where the same process is carried out. From these beds through humus tanks, final effluent goes to the River Nene. In the past, due to the very strong nature of the crude sewage, it was impossible to get a satisfactory final effluent.

The situation has been improved considerably by the manufacturers in the Borough installing pre-treatment works on their premises and so the strength of the crude sewage as it arrives at the works has been reduced. All manufacturers have now completed the installation of pre-treatment plants at their works. The Council has constructed settlement lagoons for polishing the final effluent and this has resulted in a discharge of excellent quality.

Closet Accommodation—With the exception of a few outlying houses in the district which have septic tanks, all houses are connected to the main sewers.

Disinfection—It has not been necessary to carry out any disinfection during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs—No cases were reported. This is almost a thing of the past and very few instances occur.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	97
Sewage works	...	...	...	...	...	10 treatments
Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	10 treatments
*Business premises	...	...	...	...	...	14 treatments
Private houses	...	...	...	...	...	30 treatments

*Several Business premises are served by a private operator.

Movable Dwellings—Caravan sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Only one site exists to which two visits were made.

Disinfestation—Several requests to deal with wasps’ nests in premises were dealt with.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960. Four complaints were dealt with during the year.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The erection of three Old People's Bungalows was commenced during the year at Warmond's Hill.

The proposal to develop Northampton Road/High Street site received the go-ahead and plans are being prepared for 27 flats and 16 garages.

Improvement Grants—Fourteen Standard Grants and three discretionary grants were approved during the year. The carrying out of this type of work is a benefit to the town, by providing the necessary amenities so that the houses improved are brought up to standard. The life of many of the older type of houses may be prolonged by this action, which is satisfactory and to be encouraged.

Private Development—77 houses were constructed during the year and further houses were in the course of erection at the end of the year. Private development has shown an increase in the Borough and three sites have been completed in recent years. One estate of about 70 houses is now being developed.

Housing Application—The Housing List remains somewhat stationary and no serious housing conditions exist. The demand for exchange of accommodation still remains high.

Applications for housing accommodation (Priority list) ...	6
„ „ „ „ (General list) ...	50
Applications for exchange of houses	70

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises—Twenty visits were made to food shops in the Borough during the year.

A summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year will be found in Section G pages 28 and 29.

Unsound food surrendered

Luncheon Meat	18lbs.
Chopped Ham	12ozs.
Other Foods	10lbs.

Complaints regarding the purchase of mouldy foodstuffs continue to be received and it is evident that stock rotation is not always being maintained.

Milk Supply—There is no milk pasteurisation plant in the Borough. Milk supplies are obtained from outside the area. Two neighbouring authorities have pasteurisation plants and routine samples of milk, washed bottle rinses and churn rinses are taken. The Borough is responsible for milk delivered in the area.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream—Fifteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough and ice-cream sold in the area is pre-packed.

Slaughterhouses—There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough but adjacent authorities have slaughterhouses where all meat used for human consumption is inspected before use.

Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Twenty-eight premises are registered under the Act and twenty visits were made in connection with it.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968

Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations

Notification of food poisoning and infectious diseases

All provisions governing the notification of infectious disease and food poisoning are in Sections 47 to 49 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 and the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968.

The infectious diseases to be notified to the medical officer of health are:

Acute encephalitis	Measles
Acute meningitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid Fever
Anthrax	Plague
Cholera	Relapsing fever
Diphtheria	Scarlet fever
Dysentery (Amoebic or Bacillary)	Smallpox
Food Poisoning	Tetanus
Infective jaundice	Tuberculosis
Leprosy	Typhoid fever
Leptospirosis	Typhus
Malaria	Whooping cough
	Yellow fever

Since 1968 notification of the diseases listed below is no longer required:

Acute influenzal pneumonia	Erysipelas
Acute primary pneumonia	Membranous croup
Acute rheumatism	Puerperal pyrexia

Responsibility for notifying a case or suspected case of food poisoning or infectious disease rests exclusively on the medical practitioner attending the patient unless he believes that another practitioner has already notified the case.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was five, a decrease of eighteen on last year's figure.

Measles—No cases were notified during the year. There were seventeen cases in 1969.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus—Routine immunisation of infants under one year of age with Triple Antigen has again shown its efficacy in preventing these diseases.

Immunisation is carried out either by the Family Doctor or at the County Health Department's clinics. No cases occurred.

Poliomyelitis—This is the fourth disease which is prevented by routine immunisation in infancy. This is again done either by the Family Doctor or at the Health Department's Clinics. No cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever—No cases were reported. There was one notification in the previous year.

Viral Meningitis—One case in a boy of three years, was notified in November and was treated in hospital.

Infectious Hepatitis—No cases occurred. There was one case in 1969.

Smallpox—There were no cases.

Leprosy—The Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1966 came into force on March 1st, 1966.

Under these regulations cases of Leprosy are now notifiable to the District Medical Officer of Health and not as heretofore to the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Outbreak of Staphylococcal Food Poisoning—A large outbreak of Staphylococcal Food Poisoning occurred in Rushden on October 1st. Some children from Higham Ferrers who attend this school were among those who became ill. The following description of the outbreak is taken from the *British Medical Journal*, April 10th, 1971:

“ On 1st October children and staff of three schools became ill three hours after eating a school meal prepared in the canteen of one of the schools. In all 394 meals were served and 134 people became ill. Symptoms were abdominal pain, vomiting, prostration and, in

some cases, diarrhoea. Most of the cases were mild but 16 children were sufficiently ill to require admission to hospital.

The meal consisted of meat pie, potato, carrot and trifle; the pie was prepared in the school kitchen and served hot.

Suspicion was directed to the trifle as the vehicle of infection, since some children had not eaten it and they remained well. *Staphylococcus aureus* which produced enterotoxin A was isolated from the faeces of eight children admitted to hospital and from a rectal swab from one of eight other patients who were examined. It was also isolated from nasal swabs of three members of the canteen staff, and one of these strains had a phage-typing pattern similar to that of the faecal strains. No *Staphylococcus* was isolated from the food, although the trifle had a heavy growth of coliform bacilli. It was learned later, however, that the trifle had been prepared in many separate bowls by several cooks, each adding one constituent. The cook who carried the suspected *Staphylococcus* added only the final cream decoration. It seemed possible, therefore, that only some bowls were contaminated, which would account for the epidemiological findings."

In connection with this outbreak of Food Poisoning, it was necessary to temporarily prohibit three persons, who were engaged in the preparation of food, from carrying on their occupations. Two of these persons are residents of Higham Ferrers.

Tuberculosis—No notifications of Tuberculosis were received in 1970. Two names were removed from my Register being now healed. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1970

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	5

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1970

<i>Disease</i>	0–	1–	2–	3–	4–	5–	10–	15–	20–	35–	45–	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—

SECTION G.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There are 37 factories on the register and 40 visits were made during the year. Two defects were found and remedied.

There were 34 outworkers on the August list.

No action was necessary in respect of Home Work (Section 133 and 134).

The Factory Inspectors carry out the routine inspection of all factories, and if anything is found that comes under the Local Authority then it is referred to them.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961
for the year 1970.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	38	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	6	—	—
TOTAL ...	37	44	—	—

2.—Two defects were found and remedied.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Housing					
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	90
Inspections under the Public Health Acts:					
(a) Complaints	...	...	...	...	75
(b) Infectious diseases		...	...	...	2
(c) Notice from builders		...	...	...	83
(d) Others	...	...	...	...	10
Re-inspections under the Public Health Acts	...			...	20
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...			...	26
Visits re housing applications		...	...	...	8
Visits re infectious diseases		...	...	...	2
Meat and Food					
Visits to foodshops	...	...	...	...	25
Visits to bake-houses	...	...	...	...	9
Factories					
Visits to factories with mechanical power			...	...	12
Visits to other factories	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous					
Visits re Land Charges Act	...	...		...	30
Visits under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act				...	97
Visits to refuse tip	...	...	...	...	—
Visits to sewage works	...	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	15
Visits for interviews	...	...	...	...	30
Interviews at office	...	...	...	...	250
Water tests of drains carried out		...	...	...	50
Visits re applications for improvement grants				...	20
Revisits re improvement grants		...	...	...	14
Visits to caravan sites	...	...	...	...	1
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	4
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	—
National Insurance Act	...	...	...	...	—

DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

Housing					
Repairs to water services	...	...	...	...	35
Rainwater gutters and/or downpipes renewed or repaired					20
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	50
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Additional W.Cs. provided	...	...	...	...	20
Drains repaired or altered	...	...	...	...	20
Yard pavings repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings repaired or renewed		...	...	...	4
Bathrooms provided	...	...	...	...	15
Lavatory basins provided		...	...	...	2
Walls repaired internally	...	...	...	...	10
Flushing cisterns to W.Cs. repaired or renewed				...	50
Hot water systems provided or repaired			...	...	15
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	20
Nuisances from animals abated		...	...	...	2

Dampness to walls remedied	...	...	...	10
W.C. pans renewed	...	...	...	8
Sink wastepipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	25
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	20
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	9
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	...	...	...	8
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	—
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	2
Walls repaired externally	...	...	...	12
Foodstores provided	...	...	...	2
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	25
Manholes constructed	...	...	...	12
Painting (externally)	...	...	...	10
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	6
Sink waste channels repaired or renewed	...	...	...	2

Notices Served

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	...	20
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	—
Rent Act, Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	—

Infectious Diseases

Rooms disinfected	2
Articles of bedding destroyed	4

Pet Animal Act, 1951

Licences issued	—
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Food Premises in the Borough

Grocery and Provisions	6
General shops	15
Fish shops (wet and fried)	4
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	4
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	2
Cake shops	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	—
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	4
Hotels	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	5
Clubs	...	...	...	...	3

Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act

For the sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	16
For the manufacture of sausages, etc.	...	...	...	...	3

Caravan Sites and Control of Development, Act 1960

Licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licences renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licences lapsed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Music, Singing and Dancing Licences, Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	4

